



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Hideki Itaya, Jason Dominik Hool, Javier Urena, Fredrick Spears, Osamu Ohno and Kantaro Maruoka

SERIAL NUMBER: 09/849,731

FILED: May 3, 2001

FOR: A DIAGNOSTIC PETTE ASSEMBLY
INCLUDING AUTOMATED
ASPIRATION APPARATUS

PATENT

ART UNIT NO.: 1743

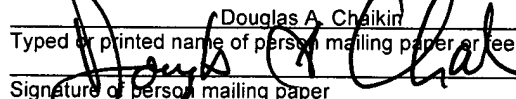
EXAMINER: Elizabeth S. Quan

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.:
HCDI1786

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San Jose, California
January 15, 2004

I hereby certify that this Response A and the documents referred to as enclosed therein is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on January 15, 2004 in an envelope addressed to to Mail Stop Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Douglas A. Chaikin
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RESPONSE A

Mail Stop: Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Response A is being submitted in response to the Office Action dated September 15, 2003, relating to the above-identified application. Reexamination and reconsideration of said application are respectfully requested. Please note that there was an error in the original submission of this case. The correct file number of this case is **HCDI1786**. The Office and the Examiner are requested to take note of this change and to change their records accordingly. In the future, in both writing and orally, please use this identification when conferring with the attorney of record. Your cooperation and courtesy is appreciated.